



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (425) 649-7000

January 20, 2004

Dear Reviewers and Interested Parties:

Re: Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed
Georgia Strait Crossing natural gas pipeline project

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has completed the final supplemental environmental impact statement (FSEIS) for the Georgia Strait Crossing natural gas pipeline project. Georgia Strait Crossing Pipeline LP (GSX) is the proponent of the project.

GSX proposes to construct and operate approximately 47 miles of 20- and 16-inch-diameter pipeline (33.4 miles onshore, 13.9 miles offshore) in Whatcom and San Juan Counties, Washington for transporting natural gas. The project also includes construction and operation of the Sumas Interconnect Facility, which includes a receipt point meter station, pig launcher, interconnect piping, and mainline valve (MLV); and the Cherry Point Compressor Station, which includes a 10,302-horsepower compressor unit, pig launcher/receiver, MLV, and a tap valve. Four additional MLVs are required to be installed along the pipeline route. In addition to the tap valve at the Cherry Point Compressor Station, a second tap valve would be installed offshore. The proposed facilities would have an initial design capacity of 95,700 decatherms per day.

The FSEIS supplements the July 2002 environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the Georgia Strait Crossing Project. The EIS prepared by the FERC and the Corps addressed some, but not all of the probable significant adverse environmental impacts of the proposed project. Ecology will be adopting the EIS prepared by the FERC and the Corps and prepared the FSEIS to address the remaining probable significant environmental impacts of the proposed project.

Elements of the environment analyzed in the FSEIS include water quality and use, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries, and historic resources. Other issues analyzed include pipeline safety, seismic hazards, pipeline noise, and consistency with local plans and policies. On September 20, 2002, GSX was issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (Certificate) from the FERC for the proposed route and associated facilities. Consequently, locations for the pipeline and associated facilities other than that authorized by the Certificate are not feasible and are not considered as alternatives.

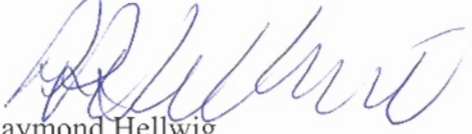


As the lead agency for the implementation of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Ecology uses the FSEIS as an assessment tool for determining potential environmental impacts of pipeline siting, construction and operation, including spill response. Also evaluated in the FSEIS are cultural and historic considerations of the proposed route.

The document is available for viewing at local libraries, Ecology offices in Bellevue and Bellingham, Ecology's web site at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/gsx, and the proponent's web site, www.georgiastrait.twc.com.

For further information, or to obtain additional copies of this document, please contact **Tiffany Yelton** at **(425) 649-4310**. If you require this document in an alternative format, please call Tiffany, or 711, or 1-800-833-6388 (TTY).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Raymond Hellwig', is written over the printed name.

Raymond Hellwig
Regional Director
WA State Department of Ecology, NWRO
RH:sh:ll